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Islands

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1. The Chinese Communists believe that the Nationalists plan to use the Tach'en Islands and nearby islands as a base to launch raids against southeast Chekiang, probably shortly after the Korean peace talks end. Therefore, they feel this base must be eliminated to prevent such raids and to strengthen coastal defenses.
2. With the cooperation of ground, air, and naval forces, the occupation of the Tach'en Islands would not be a lengthy task, nor would it require too large a force. The occupation would require (a) one infantry division and one regiment of marines experienced in amphibious warfare; (b) air cover by fighter and reconnaissance planes; (c) gunboats to cover the crossing and landing craft to carry troops, arms, and supplies; and (d) the opportune moment. Preparation of the first three items is practically completed.¹ T'AN Chen-lin² (譚震林) and CHANG Ai-ping³ discussed the occupation with CHEN I in Shanghai during March⁴, but the result of the talks is not known. Source believes that the occupation attempt may occur about 2 June 1952.

Comment. The East China Military Area has steadily increased air, ground, and naval strength along the Chekiang coast during the past two months. These are popularly believed to be defensive measures against possible Nationalist landings.

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